

Excavation and Analysis of Burials 13 and 14 from the Court Street Cemetery, AZ BB:13:156 (ASM), Tucson, Pima County, Arizona

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ABSTRACT

DATE: 28 November 2007

AGENCY: City of Tucson

REPORT TITLE: Excavation and Analysis of Burials 13 and 14 from the Court Street Cemetery, AZ BB:13:156 (ASM), Tucson, Pima County, Arizona.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The property owner at 904 N. Perry Avenue in Tucson, Arizona, discovered a human burial after a sinkhole opened in the City of Tucson's right-of-way on his property, which lies within the Catholic portion of the Court Street Cemetery. After determination that the remains were human, excavation was conducted by personnel from Desert Archaeology, Inc., and Tierra Right of Way Services. Two burials in coffins were removed. The upper burial was a child aged between 3 and 4 at death. The lower burial was an adult male aged about 25 to 35 at death. These individuals were buried in similar coffins and were wearing clothing, and the adult male had personal possessions in his pockets, including an 1886 coin.

PERMIT NUMBER: Arizona State Museum Emergency Burial Discovery Case No. 2007-64; Arizona State Museum Accession No. 2007-0687.

LOCATION:

County: Pima

Description: The burials were located at 904 N. Perry Street in the northwest quarter of Section 12, Township 14 South, Range 13 East on the USGS 7.5-minute topographic quad Tucson, Ariz. (AZ BB:13 [NW]).

NUMBER OF SURVEYED ACRES: NA

NUMBER OF SITES: 1

LIST OF REGISTER-ELIGIBLE PROPERTIES: AZ BB:13:156 (ASM)

LIST OF INELIGIBLE SITES: 0

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Court Street Cemetery was in use from 1875 to 1909. While many of the human remains were removed to Evergreen and Holy Hope cemeteries, it is likely the majority were left in place. The present burials are the 13th and 14th excavated since the 1940s. Additional burials are likely present within the boundaries of the cemetery.

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EXCAVATION AND ANALYSIS OF BURIALS 13 AND 14 FROM THE COURT STREET CEMETERY, AZ BB:13:156 (ASM), TUCSON, PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA

This report presents the results of the archaeological excavation and osteological analysis of two burials located within the boundaries of the historic Court Street Cemetery, which was in operation between 1875 and 1909. A homeowner discovered a sinkhole that had opened up after a heavy rainfall on 1 October 2007. While examining the hole he found human remains and fragments of a coffin. After the remains were identified as human, a decision was made by the Arizona State Museum (ASM) and the City of Tucson to disinter them. Homer Thiel and Susan Hall of Desert Archaeology, Inc., and Jennifer Hushour and Mike Margolis of Tierra Right of Way Services, excavated the burials on 12 October 2007 and 15 October 2007. This report presents a description of the burials and their associated artifacts and coffins and includes a detailed osteological analysis. The osteological analysis forms and field number lists are presented as appendices. At the time of this report preparation the remains and associated artifacts are being held at Desert Archaeology, and may be repatriated to the Holy Hope Cemetery at a future date. They were excavated under ASM Emergency Burial Discovery Case No. 2007-64 and ASM Accession No. 2007-0687.

PROJECT AREA LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

Burials 13 and 14 were located in the area between the street and a concrete retaining wall at 904 N. Perry Avenue, Tucson, Pima County, Arizona. This is in the northwest quarter of Section 12, Township 14 South, Range 13 East, on the USGS 7.5-minute topographic quad Tucson, Ariz. (Figure 1). The area is at an elevation of about 2,370 ft. Historic period ground-leveling activities have dramatically changed the surrounding environment. The area has been a residential neighborhood since the late 1910s.

THE COURT STREET CEMETERY

The Court Street Cemetery was established in 1875 on the northern outskirts of town (Figure 2). The cemetery was bounded on the west by N. Main Avenue, on the east by N. Stone Avenue, on the south by E. Second Street, and on the north by Speedway Boulevard. The Common Council of the Village of Tucson met on 18 May 1875 to plan the cemetery, whose location had been selected by the Committee on Cemeteries. The Council made a resolution that set Blocks 7, 8, 9, 14, and 15 (east of 10th Avenue) for the Catholic Church cemetery and Blocks 9, 10, and 13 (west of 10th Avenue) for non-Catholics (G. Wallace, n.d.).

The Court Street Cemetery commenced operations on 1 June 1875. Within the cemetery were smaller plots maintained by local organizations including the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), the Tucson Volunteer Fire Department, the Independent Order of B'nai

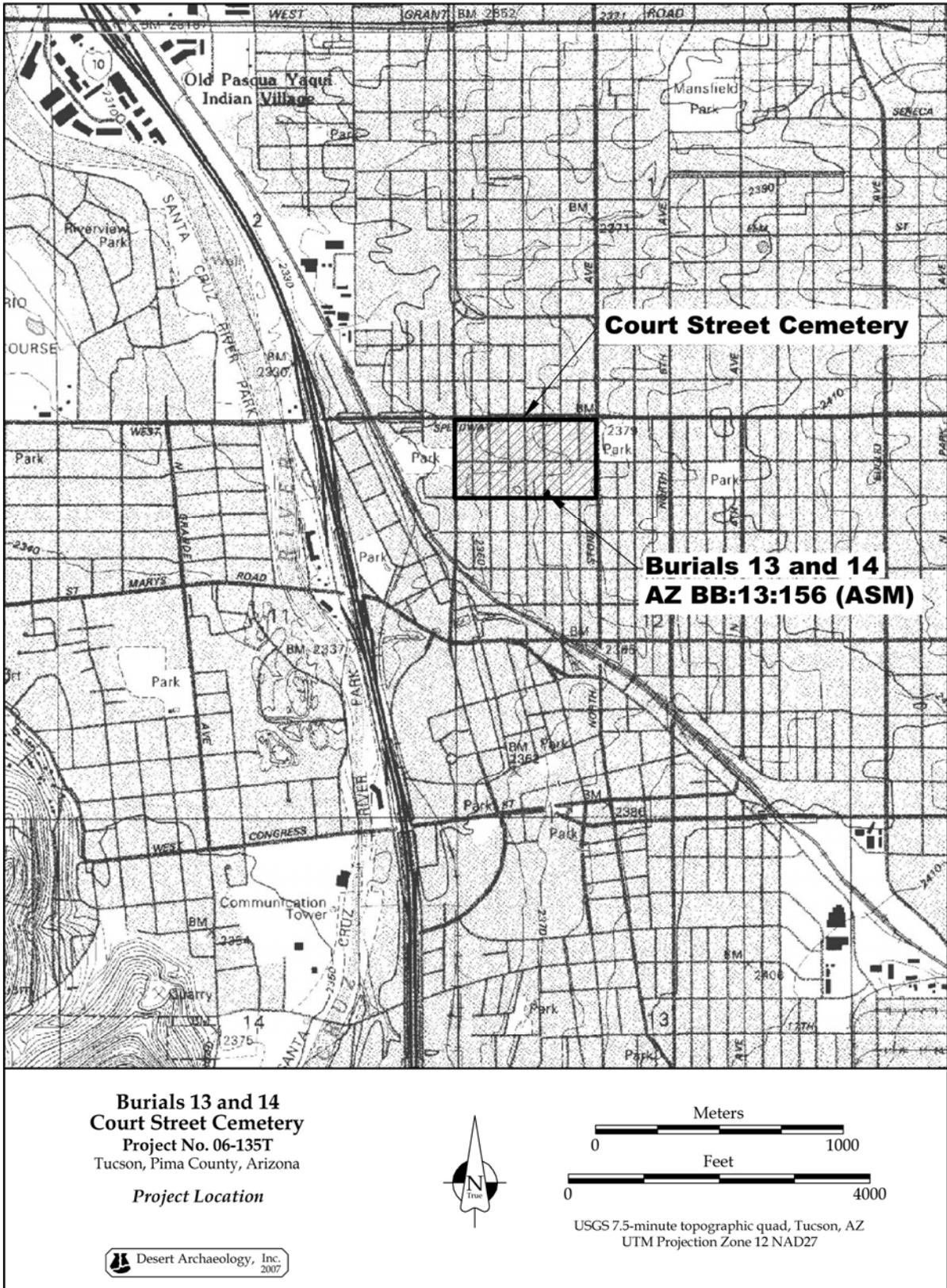


Figure 1. Reproduction of USGS 7.5-minute topographic quad Tucson, Ariz. (AZ BB:13 [NW]), showing location of project area.

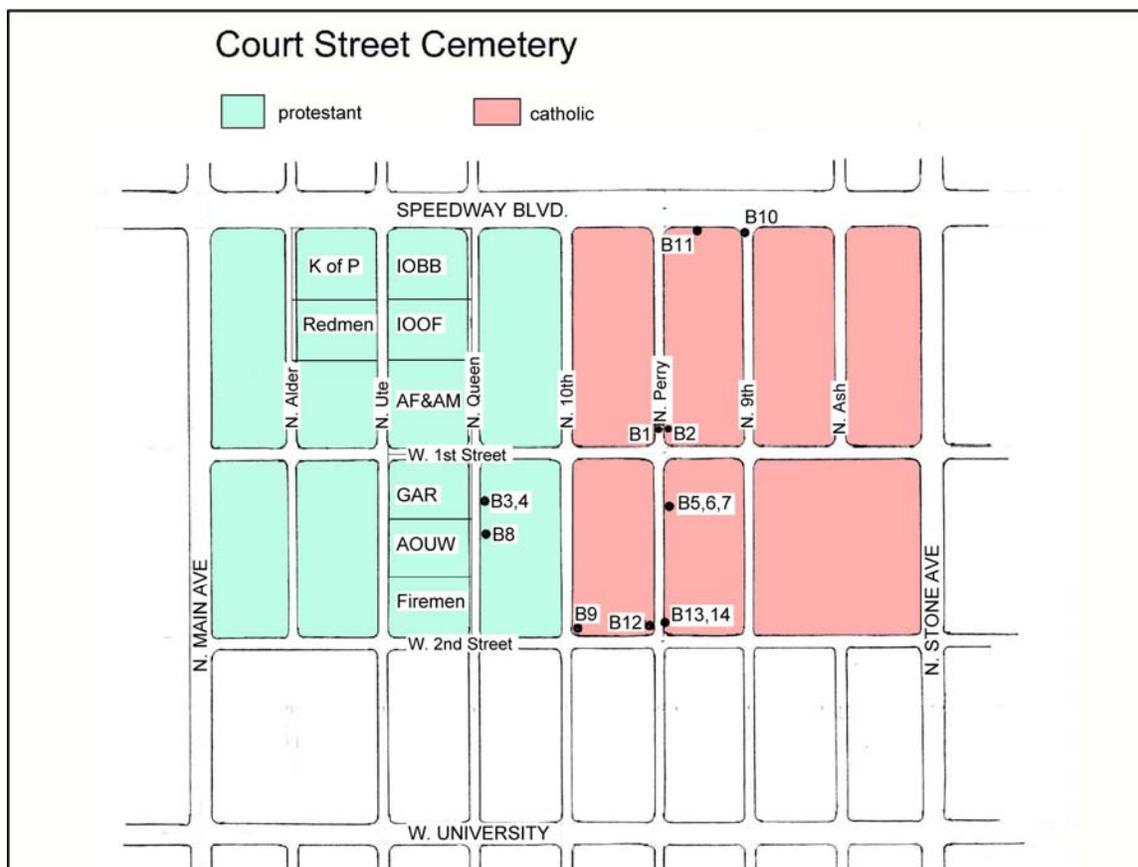


Figure 2. Map of the cemetery, showing its internal divisions and locations of excavated burials (prepared by the Bioarchaeology Laboratory, Arizona State Museum).

B'rith (IOBB), the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF), Lodge 4 of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons (AF & AM), the Knights of Pythias, and the Ancient Order of the United Workmen (AOUW). The initial appearance of the cemetery concerned some Tucson residents:

There is more or less complaint about the appearance and management or utter lack of management of the new burying ground north of town. It is represented that our departed friends are, to use homely and pointed language, "planted promiscuously." We have been to the ground a number of times and our impression is that such is the case. There is a portion of the ground occupied by the Catholic church and there they lay away their dear friends, perhaps with some order in arrangement of the respective believers graves. Outside of this, it seems to us, the dead are buried as chance or momentary choice may dictate the location. This is wrong. Everything in death as in life should be done decently and in order. Economy is a good thing but don't let it commence with the dead, for whom there is nothing left but a decent burial (*Arizona Weekly Citizen*, 22 January 1876).

The editorial goes on to recommend a survey of the cemetery to establish lots and the creation of avenues. Editorials suggested that leading residents thought the Court Street Cemetery was an eyesore and a nuisance by 1877. The *Arizona Weekly Citizen* reported, "The present cemetery is a drear bleak, desolate place and I deem it cruelty in the highest degree to compel parents, kindred and friends to entomb and take final leave of their dear

departed ones in so drear and desolate place" (*Arizona Weekly Citizen*, 17 February 1877). The author suggested that a new cemetery be laid out to the northeast of the city, in an area where trees and shrubs were present. A Spanish language newspaper reported, "The cemetery is a disgrace. Coyotes dig up bodies and animals destroy tombs and the dirt is incredibly hard. It is terrible that our loved ones should have to rest in peace in this manner. We ask our bankrupt City Council to build a wall around our cemetery" (*Los Dos Republicas*, 31 August 1878).

Tucson residents attended Memorial Day ceremonies at the cemetery in the 1880s. These ceremonies were sponsored by the Negly Post No. 1 of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), the local Civil War Union Soldiers group. Graves were decorated and a procession marched to the cemetery. Included in the procession were troops from Fort Lowell, the fire department, Confederate soldiers, Union soldiers, a floral wagon, citizens in carriages, and a "floral Committee of Ladies" (*Arizona Daily Star*, 29 May 1889). The GAR plot was marked by a large iron arch with the letters GAR in the center (MS 790, Arizona Historical Society).

Other groups enhanced the cemetery. Dolores Aguirre de Samaniego raised money to put up a wooden arch (*enverjado*) at the Catholic Cemetery (*El Fronterizo*, 9 April 1887). The fire department attempted to raise money to erect a fence around their lot in 1889 (*Arizona Daily Star*, 12 May 1889). The Masonic fraternity enclosed their burial area with a redwood post fence. The entrance to their lot, which measured about 179 feet by 22 feet, was marked by a 12-foot-wide gate that was 10 feet tall. A square and compass was mounted on the top of the gate (*Arizona Daily Star*, 22 July 1890).

Problems occasionally arose over use of the cemetery, "Violent acts have been committed against the gravedigger at the Catholic Cemetery by people wishing to bury their dead without following rules. The most recent incident, trying to force the gravedigger to bury someone at an inopportune time of the night. Acts that provoke order, morals and good education should not be committed over the graves of the dead" (*El Fronterizo*, 26 March 1892, 3:2). The same paper reported the following week that the police were investigating vandalism after the metal cross on Jesús Montaña's headstone was broken off and a vase smashed, "Those who don't respect the sacred place where the dead lay, show their most perverted sentiments" (*El Fronterizo*, 2 April 1892, 3:3).

In 1902, city residents complained about the desert landscaping of the cemetery, "Cemeteries are weird enough at any stage of the game, but especially so without foliage of some sort" (*Tucson Citizen*, 22 August 1902). The newspaper suggested that a water main be extended to the cemetery so that the area could be watered and a lawn planted. It was noted that, "The ground was not good for growing grass and trees and the appearance of the place has been unsightly" (*Tucson Daily Star*, 11 July 1907).

Tucson grew steadily northward and some members of the Tucson Council began to discuss moving the cemetery away from the edge of town, claiming that it depreciated city property and that the Court Street Cemetery wasn't large enough. In April 1906, councilman Mose Drachman organized a cemetery committee to look for a new location for the cemetery. A petition by the Fraternal Order of Eagles for two lots in the cemetery adjoining the Redmen's (a Masonic order) burial ground appears to have renewed discussion of the topic, which had

been debated several months before. At that time, "it brought forth a storm of protests from secret societies and from persons who have a superstition about removing the dead" (*Tucson Citizen*, 3 April 1906). A letter to the editor of the paper appeared the next day from one such person, who stated that he had friends and relatives buried there, had spent money beautifying lots, and that the northern edge of town was "not likely in fifty years, if ever, to grow to the cemetery" (*Tucson Citizen*, 4 April 1906).

By the following year, the councilmen had motored out and viewed the proposed location of the new cemetery. Local businessmen had purchased 240 acres and formed the Tucson Cemetery Association. Their offer to the city included 30 acres to be donated as a pauper's cemetery and an offer to remove the dead from the pauper's area of the Court Street Cemetery. Other lots would be offered to poor people at no more than 50 dollars a lot. The City passed an ordinance forbidding burial within city limits after 1 January 1908 (*Tucson Citizen*, 11 July 1907). However, on 17 August 1907 the city council passed an ordinance allowing burials to continue until 1 July 1909 (Ordinance 264 1/2). Catholic burial records indicate that burials began at Holy Hope Cemetery on 7 June 1909.

The total number of burials in the Court Street Cemetery is not known. Catholic burial records for the period between 1 June 1875 and 6 June 1909, list 4,638 persons buried in the cemetery (Table 1). These records are incomplete for 1881 and 1882, and it is likely that several hundred more people died during those years and were buried in the Catholic portion of the cemetery. No similar complete list of burials exists for the Protestant portion of the cemetery. It would be possible to identify many burials by careful examination of a variety of record sources (newspapers, Territorial death certificates, Parker Funeral Home records, and tombstones moved to Evergreen Cemetery).

Table 1. Catholic burials in the Court Street Cemetery, 1875-1909.

Year	Number	Year	Number	Year	Number	Year	Number
1875	112	1884	123	1893	179	1902	178
1876	134	1885	116	1894	119	1903	121
1877	180	1886	141	1895	131	1904	163
1878	102	1887	130	1896	138	1905	161
1879	120	1888	171	1897	115	1906	196
1880	154	1889	94	1898	163	1907	193
1881*	1	1890	129	1899	109	1908	184
1882*	0	1891	121	1900	142	1909	73
1883	152	1892	175	1901	118		

*records are incomplete for 1881 and 1882

In May 1915, the city published advertisements stating that people had only 30 to 40 days to remove bodies. On 6 March 1916 the city council reviewed plans for the sale of the "old and abandoned cemetery" and the 88 lots were sold on 21 March 1916 (G. Wallace, n.d.).

Similar to another nearby abandoned historic cemetery, the National Cemetery (in use circa 1865-1884), many burials were not moved between 1909 and 1916. Two coffins, stacked on

top of each other, were discovered in July 1949 during the excavation of a sewer line (*Arizona Daily Star*, 22 July 1949). Two burials were recovered in 1967 and two more in 1970. Excavations for a water pipe in 1981 led to the discovery of two burials. As reported by the *Arizona Daily Star*, the University of Arizona Human Identification Laboratory excavated the burials. Four other burials, previously removed by the Laboratory within the cemetery, were housed at the Laboratory (17 January 1981). Another burial, that of a teenaged male, was discovered in July 1986 and was also excavated by the Human Identification Laboratory (Revere 1986; Carlock and McClain 1986). The twelfth burial from the cemetery was found in May 2005 at 901 N. Perry Avenue (Beck et al. 2005). Neighborhood residents who visited the current excavations reported finding bone or probable grave shafts on their property. It is very likely that a very large number of burials are still present within the cemetery area.

The two burials found in 2007 are located within the Catholic section of Court Street Cemetery. The entire cemetery has been designated site AZ BB:13:156 (ASM).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT OF BURIALS 13 AND 14

On 1 October 2007 a heavy rainfall opened a small sinkhole next to a concrete retaining wall at 904 N. Perry Avenue. The area was located within the City of Tucson's right-of-way. The property owner, Moses Thompson, thought a leaking pipe was the cause of the sinkhole and began to excavate the area to locate the pipe. At about 50 cm below the modern ground surface he struck wood, brass decorative elements, and several rib and finger bones. He covered the area and contacted Desert Archaeology on 2 October 2007. Homer Thiel of Desert Archaeology contacted John Madsen of the Arizona State Museum on 3 October 2007. Madsen requested that the City of Tucson remove the burial, since the likelihood that it would be disturbed by future utility work was high. The City concurred.

The remains were excavated under the Arizona State Museum's emergency burial discovery permit. The Arizona State Museum Accession No. for the project is 2007-687. On 12 October 2007, Thiel, Susan Hall, and Jennifer Hushour excavated Feature 13. It was then discovered that another burial lay beneath Feature 13. On 15 October 2007, Thiel, Hall, and Michael Margolis excavated Feature 14. No photographs were taken of the human remains during fieldwork or during laboratory analyses.

Feature 13

Excavation

Excavation of this burial (Figures 3 and 4) began with the enlargement of the sinkhole and the location of the shaft edges. The ground surface in the location of the burial had been cut down during the development of the area in the late 1910s, and the original surface was probably several feet higher than it is today. Caliche, a hardened layer of calcium carbonate (also called hardpan), begins at ground surface and the edges of the grave shaft were easily discernable. The shaft was filled with brown sand, small gravels, and chunks of caliche.

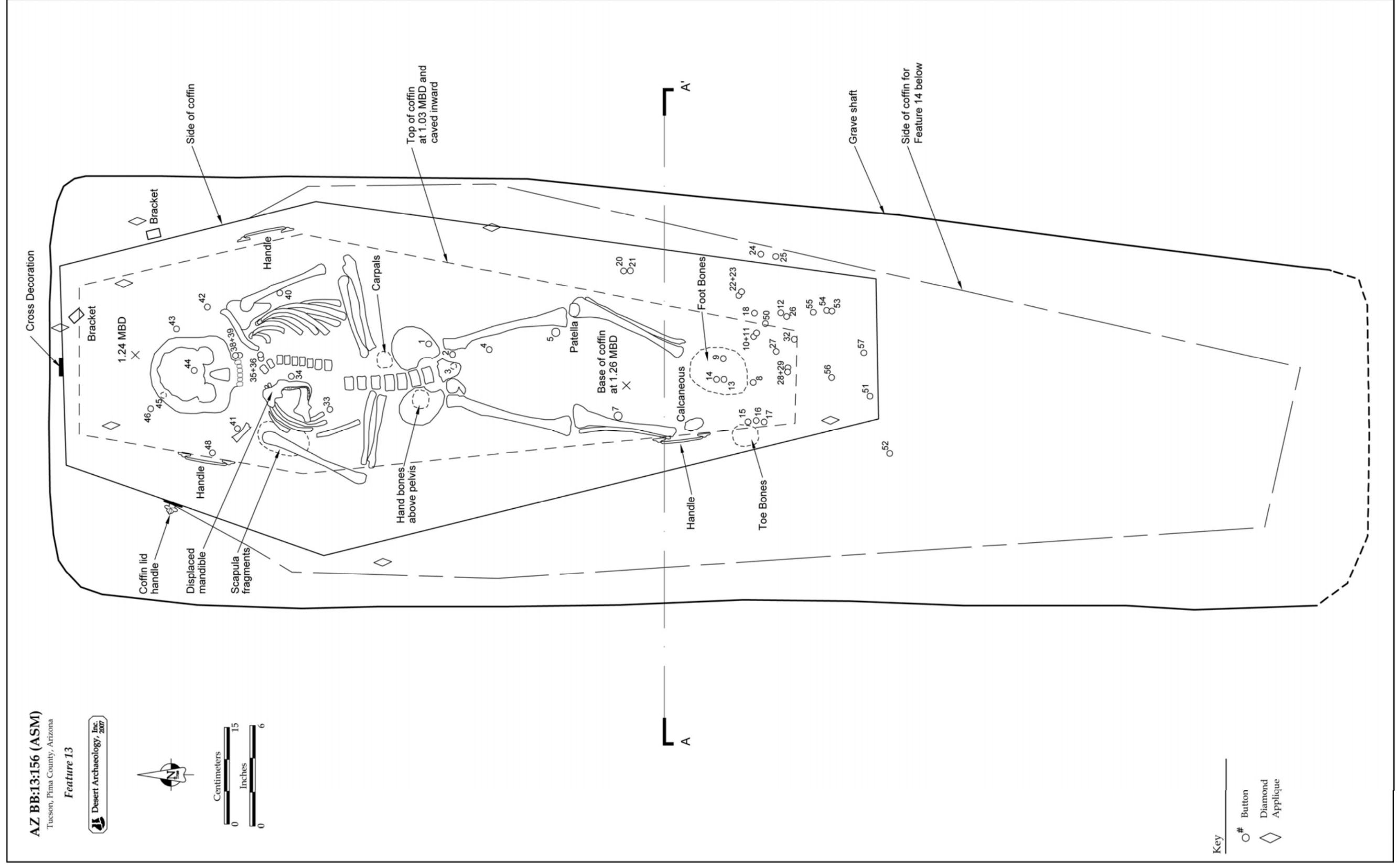


Figure 3. Plan view map of Feature 13.

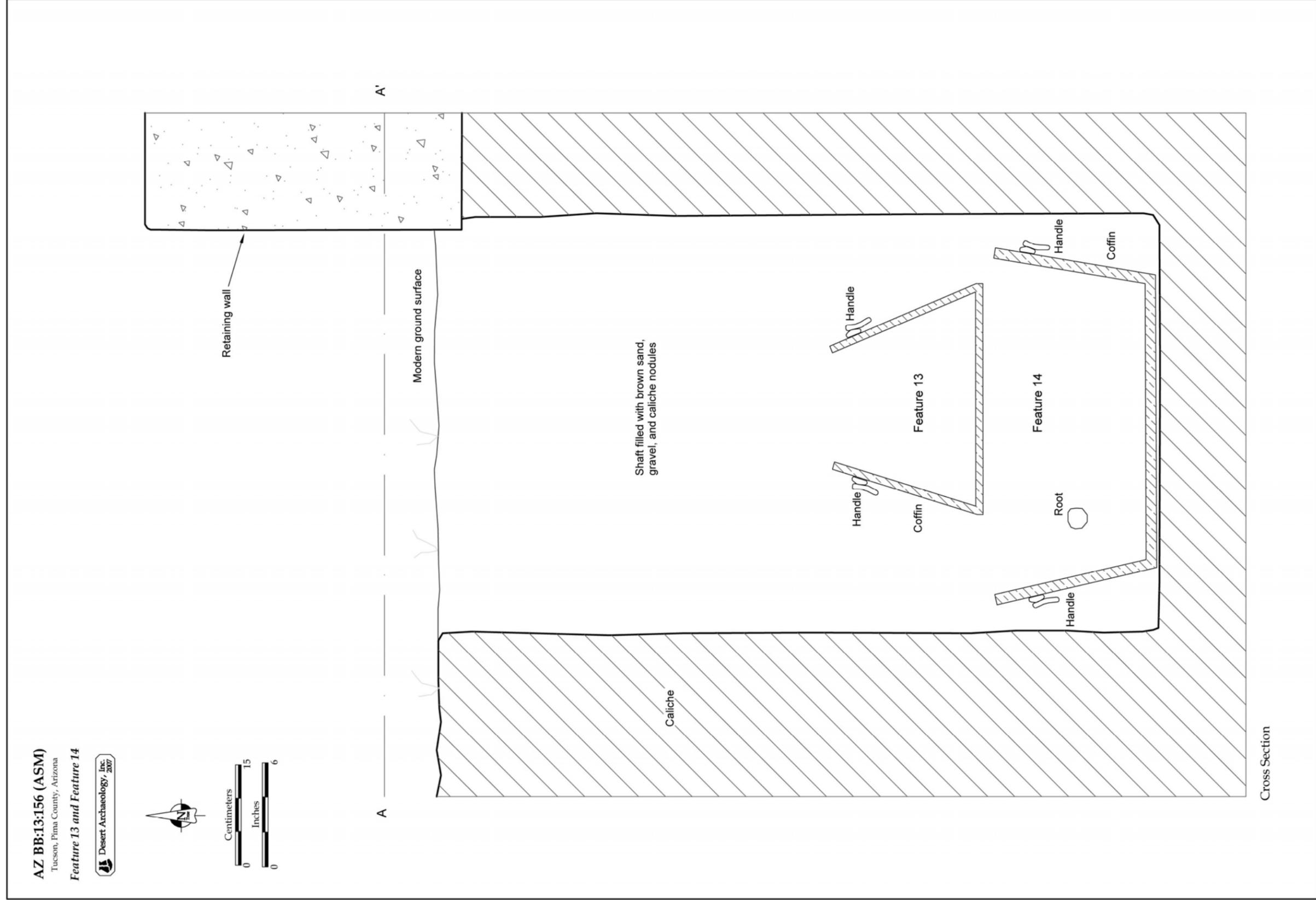


Figure 4. Cross section drawing of Features 13 and 14.

A surprising discovery was that the burial was oriented north-south. Feature 12, the burial excavated across the street at 901 N. Perry Avenue, was oriented east-west.

The remains lay inside a shouldered coffin that had collapsed inward. The remains were in place, and the only disturbance was a small area where the right hand and lower rib cage had been dislodged during the discovery event. The coffin, human remains, and associated artifacts were mapped. An attempt was made to locate all buttons in place to allow for an identification of apparel, and 48 of the 58 buttons were mapped in situ. All soil was screened through 1/8-inch mesh. The material from this burial was assigned field numbers 145 to 202 (see Appendix B).

Coffin

The coffin was 126 cm (4 ft 2 inches) long and was 57 cm (3 ft 3 inches) wide at its widest point. The head of the coffin was 31 cm wide and the foot of the coffin was 22 cm wide. It was at least 23 cm tall. The coffin was made from Douglas fir (cf. *Pseudotsuga menziesii*), based on an examination of wood fragments by Dr. Michael Diehl of Desert Archaeology, Inc. The lid was poorly preserved. The walls of the coffin had collapsed inward by as much as 10 cm. The bottom of the coffin survived mostly as an organic stain.

The coffin had three handles attached to its sides (Figure 5). These appear to have been made from zinc. The attachment plates have a floral decoration and the loop handle portion has a plain oval cartouche in its center surrounded by ribbons and vines. Three of the handles were 5 ¼ inches long. A fourth handle was 7 ¼ inches long and was identical to the



Figure 5. Coffin handle from Feature 13 [FN 195].

three handles from the lower burial, Feature 14. It is unclear whether this handle was attached to the Feature 13 coffin. It was found in the southeast portion of the burial, where a handle should have been, but it was not located attached to the coffin. The Feature 14 burial is missing one of its handles, and it is possible that the handle was tossed into the grave shaft after Feature 13 was put in place.

Two smaller handles were attached to the lid of the coffin and were probably used to lift up the lid for viewing of the remains. Each handle knob was $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches long and $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide. The attachment plate was $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches long and $\frac{7}{8}$ inches wide. The handles were identical to the two found with the Feature 14 coffin, with an abstract clover-like design for the handles and abstract leaves for the attachment plate. The handles may have been painted white and were made from zinc. Iron nails attached them to the coffin.

Six iron internal brackets were present inside the coffin and were attached at each of the angled joints of the sides. Each was $1\frac{7}{8}$ inches long and $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches wide. At least 68 iron nail fragments were found and were used to fasten the coffin together. Many have fragments of wood still attached to them. The best-preserved examples are hand-wrought. Two nails have zinc heads, perhaps decorative, but too poorly preserved to determine what sort of design was present or how they functioned, although the most likely explanation is that these nails held the missing coffin handle in place. There was no evidence for paint or fabric lining.

The coffin was decorated with 18 diamond shaped appliqués (Figure 6). Several of the appliqués were present on the lid and were dislodged during its discovery. Additional appliqués were present in a line along the sides, apparently placed length-wise. Three or four appliqués were on the front of the coffin, arranged upright on either side of a large pressed-brass applique (see Figure 6). All of the diamond-shaped appliqués were slightly less than 2 inches tall and $\frac{7}{8}$ inches wide with a rounded boss in the center. Sixteen had smooth, plain triangular areas on either side of the boss while two had embossed leaves on each side. The crucifix was $2\frac{7}{8}$ inches tall and 2 inches wide. The cross was ornate with fleur-de-leis like ends. Below it was a band of foliage and a lamb.

Human remains

The coffin contained a child buried in a supine, extended position. The head was positioned so that the face was upwards at the north end of the coffin. The mandible had fallen down from the skull and lay over the upper right ribs. The vertebral column was similarly malpositioned, moving into an S-shape as the body decomposed. The humeri were extended along the sides of the body, with the distal ends positioned slightly further from the body. The lower arms were bent and drawn up over the lower chest. It is possible that the hands were crossed. The legs were extended and had fallen over during decomposition. Most of the remains were preserved. However, the skull had been crushed as the coffin collapsed and some elements, especially the right scapula, had decomposed. It would appear that those elements in contact with wood suffered the most damage, perhaps due to the acids present in the wood.



Figure 6. Diamond-shaped and crucifix coffin appliques from Feature 13 (FN 196 and 201).

Associated artifacts

An iron pin and 58 buttons were present in the burial (Figure 7). The pin was $\frac{3}{4}$ inches long and was found in the screen. The buttons appeared to be from several garments. Fourteen different types of buttons were present (Table 2). Most were mapped in place during excavation.

The child appears to have been buried in a garment with small, milk glass buttons that ran down the back center (No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 33, 34, 35, 38, and 39), with three larger buttons (No. 7, 20, 21) at the bottom of the garment. This was probably a dress that extended down to the middle of the lower legs. Another garment, which had small milk glass buttons with calico decorations and a larger shell button, was apparently used as a pillow and lay beneath the head (No. 42, 43, 44, 45, 46).

As many as four other garments were wadded up and stuffed into the foot of the coffin. One garment had milk glass buttons with two circular black lines, another had small milk glass buttons, a third had larger milk glass buttons with wavy calico lines, and the last had large shell buttons. There are several explanations for this occurrence. A mass of clothing could have been inserted at the foot end of the coffin to prevent the body from shifting into this area as the coffin was moved. Another possibility is that the clothing belonged to the child and was included, perhaps because the child died from an infectious disease. A third possibility is that the clothing was used to line the coffin, although the sheer number of buttons, which likely indicate several articles of clothing, and their location in one portion of the coffin, makes this seem least likely.



Figure 7. Buttons from Feature 13. Top row: Button 1 [FN146], Button 5 [FN150], Button 6 [FN151], Button 7 [FN152], Button 9 [FN154]. Middle row: Buttons 13 and 14 [FN157], Button 19 [FN162], Buttons 20 and 21 [FN163]. Bottom row: Button 31 [FN170], Button 48 [148], Button 49 [FN183].

Table 2. Buttons present in Feature 13.

Button No.	Material	Type	Ligne ^a	Comments
1, 2, 3, 4, 15, 28, 29, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 39, 50, 53, 54, 55, 56, 58	Milk glass	4 hole	17	
5	Milk glass	4 hole	30	
6, 8, 17, 22, 24	Milk glass, calico	4 hole	25	Wavy brown lines
7	Milk glass	4 hole	28	
9, 10, 11, 12, 18, 23, 26, 27, 30, 32, 52	Milk glass	4 hole	25	Two rings of black lines
13, 16, 36	Milk glass	4 hole	25	
14, 40, 42, 43, 44, 46, 47	Milk glass, calico	4 hole	17	Brown circles
19, 25	Milk glass	4 hole	17	Ridges around interior edge, red or brown paint
20, 41	Milk glass	4 hole	25	Outer band is rounded
21	Shell	4 hole	24	
31	Hard rubber	2 hole	28	Brown
45, 49, 51, 57	Shell	2 hole	30	
48	Milk glass	4 hole	20	Outer band is rounded
59	Shell	Unknown	17	Fragmentary

^a A ligne is a unit of measurement, with one inch equaling 40 ligne.

Feature 14

Excavation

The burial shaft for Feature 13 was cut through caliche and it was expected that the floor of the shaft, beneath the coffin, would be solid caliche. Instead, the material below was loose and contained a mixture of sand and caliche chunks. A tentative probe of the area located a second cranium about 15 cm below the base of the Feature 13 coffin. This second burial was designated Feature 14 (Figure 8, see Figure 4).

Feature 14 was excavated on 15 October 2007 by Thiel, Hall, and Margolis. The same excavation procedures utilized for Feature 13 were followed for Feature 14. It was necessary to remove additional shaft fill at the southern end of the grave. However, the south wall of the shaft was not located in this area and a probe into the area could not locate a hard caliche edge. It seemed prudent to not explore the area further, since there is a possibility that additional burials are present in the vicinity. The grave shaft was between 63 and 66 cm (circa 26 inches) wide and was at least 205 cm (6 ft 8 inches) long. The shaft began at ground surface and its base was at 113 cm (44 inches) below ground surface. Field numbers 100 through 149 were assigned to this burial (see Appendix B).

Coffin

The coffin for Feature 14 was poorly preserved, in comparison to Feature 13. It survived mostly as a brown organic stain.

The coffin was 182 cm (6 ft) long and was 57 cm (22 inches) wide at its widest point. The head of the coffin was 31 cm wide and the foot of the coffin was 26 cm wide. It was at least 29 cm (11 inches) tall. The coffin was also made from Douglas fir. The lid was very poorly preserved. The walls of the coffin had collapsed inward by as much as 8 to 10 cm. The bottom of the coffin survived mostly as an organic stain.

The coffin had five handles attached to its sides (Figure 9). All three of the handles on the right side of the coffin were in place. The middle and foot end handles were in place on the left side. Two fragments of an attachment plate were also found. These fragments were either from the northern handle on the right side of the coffin, which is missing one of the attachment plates, or from the sixth handle which was missing for this coffin (and was apparently found with the Feature 13 burial). The two pieces had broken prior to the coffin being lowered into the grave, and one piece was found beneath the bottom of the coffin in the left shoulder area. This suggests the handle broke off as the coffin was being positioned over the shaft, perhaps as it was being lowered in place. Each of the handles was 7 ¼ inches long. The attachments had abstract floral sprays. Each loop handle had a central cartouche with ray-like lines running from a central point. Extending away from the cartouche were curling vines with small flowers. The portion of the loop handle where it attached to the attachment plates had an abstract floral design on its front. One of the handles was painted silver-white, and it is likely the other handles were also painted. The handles were attached to the coffin with iron nails.

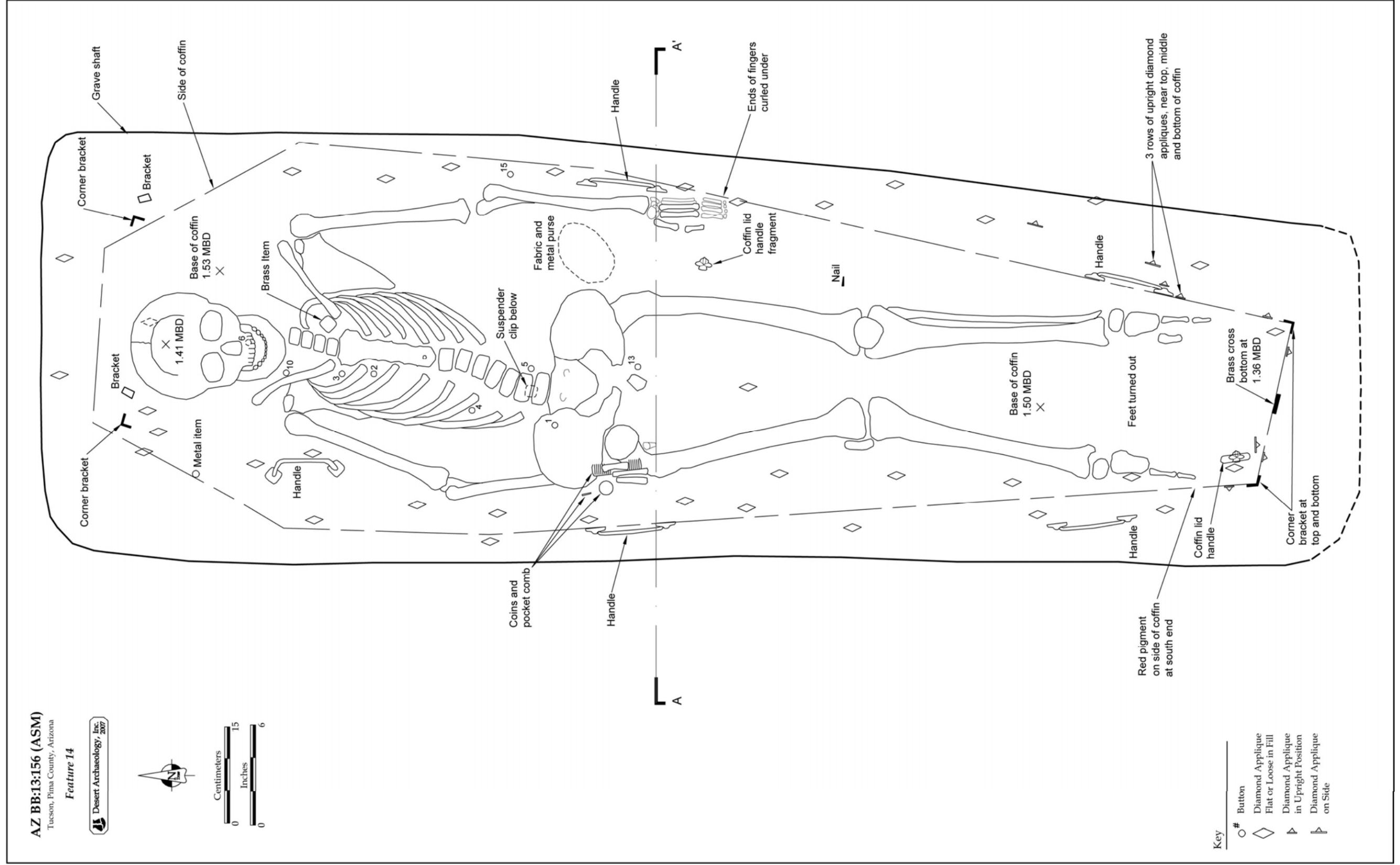


Figure 8. Plan view map of Feature 14.



Figure 9. Coffin handles and lid handle from Feature 14 [FN 134, FN137, and FN132].

Two smaller handles were attached to the lid. One was located between the left hand and left femur. The second handle was found in the lower right hand corner of the coffin. The handles were identical to the two found with the Feature 13 coffin, with an abstract clover-like design for the handle knobs and abstract leaves for the attachment plate. The handles may have been painted white and were made from zinc. An iron nail attached them to the coffin.

Eight internal, angled brackets were present inside the coffin and were attached at each of the angled joints of the sides (Figure 10). The brackets were placed at the top and base of the coffin at the foot end. Each was $1\frac{7}{8}$ inches long and $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches wide. At least 14 nails were used to fasten the coffin together. The longest was $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches long and was hand-wrought. Red paint was visible along the exterior of the sides and foot end of the coffin. No evidence for fabric lining survived.



Figure 10. Bracket from southeast upper corner of the coffin from Feature 14 [FN 126].

The coffin was decorated with 56 diamond shaped appliquéés with a raised circular boss in the center. These were identical to the diamond decorations on the Feature 13 coffin. Each was about 2 inches long and $\frac{7}{8}$ inch wide. One of the appliquéés was present in the center of the lid, in the area between the femurs. As many as three rows of appliquéés were present on the exterior sides of the coffin. It appears the upper and lower rows were lengthwise and the middle row was upright. A pressed brass appliqué of a crucifix was present in the center of the foot end of the coffin, with upright diamonds on either side. The crucifix appliqué was very poorly preserved. It was $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches tall and about $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide.

Human Remains

This individual lay extended supine within the coffin. The skull was on its back and was slightly crushed as the coffin lid collapsed. The right clavicle was pushed out of place, with the distal end positioned away from the acromium process of the scapula. The vertebrae had

slipped slightly as the body decomposed, with the lower thoracic and lumbar vertebrae forming a noticeable S-shaped curve.

The arms were extended along the sides of the body. The left forearm lay against the side of the coffin. The left hand was curled under so that the medial and distal phalanges lay beneath the proximal phalanges. The left distal forearm lay beneath the right innominate. The palm of the right hand lay over the proximal femur. This positioning suggests some movement of the lower arm and pelvis during decomposition.

The legs were extended. The right lower leg had fallen over onto its lateral side, with the fibula underneath the tibia. It appears that both feet had slumped over and lay on their lateral sides.

Associated Artifacts

The Feature 14 individual was buried wearing a shirt, a jacket, suspenders, and a pair of pants, as seen by the clothing remains present (Figure 11). A total of 25 buttons and rivets were recovered, consisting of eight types (Table 3).



Figure 11. Clothing artifacts from Feature 14. Top row: Button 1 [FN 101], Button 3 [FN 103], Button 28 [FN 107], Button 13 [FN 110] and Button 14 [FN 111]. Middle row: Button 17 [FN 114], Rivet 5 [FN 105], and Rivet 8 [FN 107]. Bottom row: Sponder buckle (FN 118).

Table 3. Buttons and rivets recovered from Feature 14.

Button No.	Material	Type	Ligne ^a	Comments
1, 2, 6, 10, 15, 16	Milk glass	4 hole	15	
13	Milk glass	4 hole	20	
14	Shell	Shanked	22	
25	Shell	4 hole	12	
3, 4, 7	Iron	Shanked	30	Fabric impressions
17, 18	Iron	Shanked	25	Fabric impressions
8, 9, 12, 21, 22, 23, 24	Iron	Rivet	25	Fabric impressions
5, 11, 19, 20	Iron	Rivet	30	Fabric impressions

^a A ligne is a unit of measurement, with one inch equaling 40 ligne.

A shirt is represented by milk glass buttons. It buttoned down the front and had a button on each sleeve near the elbow. A jacket was represented by two sizes of shanked iron buttons with smooth faces. The pants had two sizes of iron rivets, with most of these found in the waist area. It is possible that button No. 13, a larger milk glass button, was from an undergarment, given its position in the pelvic area. One of two suspender buckles came from the waist area. The suspender buckles were made from iron and were 1½ inches long by 1⅛ inch wide. Several pieces of fabric survived in the left pocket area due to their exposure to brass items. One piece was a coarse brown woolen fabric, probably from the jacket. The second was a machine woven white cotton fabric with thin blue lines. This was either the pocket lining for the jacket or perhaps from the shirt the man was wearing.

No evidence for shoes was present, and given the lack of shoe nails, it is unlikely this individual was wearing leather footwear when buried.

A thin piece of brass, possibly a pin, ⅜ inch long, was found while screening. It is uncertain whether this item is actually a pin.

An unusual find was that this individual was buried with personal possessions in his pockets. It is uncertain whether the items were in the pockets of a pair of pants or a jacket. A comb and three coins, were found on the right side of the body next to the right innominate and femur (Figure 12). The black, hard rubber comb was ¾ inches long and had an impressed mark, "L. R. COMB Co. GOODYEAR 1851." Pieces of paper adhered to the comb and it may have had been inside a paper sleeve. The three coins were very corroded, but on examination were found to be a shield nickel (which would date between 1867 and 1883), an 1886 seated Liberty dime, and a heavily worn 1877 seated Liberty quarter.

The left pocket, probably from a jacket, held two items (Figure 13). A coin purse with a double opening brass hasp and a white machine-woven cotton bag were present. The cloth bag was about 3½ inches wide and was in two layers. Inside the bag was an unidentifiable iron object, too rusted to determine what it was, but it had a tube-like appearance. Beneath the bag was an iron pocketknife or jackknife with mother-of-pearl inlays set into brass. The knife was 3½ inches long and had two blades.



Figure 12. Artifacts from the right pocket of Feature 14. Top row: Nickel [FN 120] and quarter [FN 121]. Bottom row: Comb [FN 117].



Figure 13. Artifacts from the left pocket of Feature 14. Top: Pocket knife. Middle: brown woolen fabric and striped cotton fabric, fragment of the brass coin purse clasp, coin purse cotton fabric [all FN 119].

OSTEOLOGICAL ANALYSES OF BURIALS 13 AND 14

The analysis of the two individuals began in the field by osteologists Jennifer Hushour (Burial 13) and Michael Margolis (Burial 14), both from Tierra Right of Way Services. Margolis completed the analysis in the laboratory of Desert Archaeology on 17 October 2007.

The methods used for this analysis is consistent with those outlined by the bioarchaeological laboratory at the Arizona State Museum and those set forth in *Standards for Data Collection from Human Skeletal Remains* (Buiksra and Ubelaker 1994). All human remains were treated with respect during excavation and analysis. No destructive analysis was conducted and photography of the remains did not occur.

Both burials were in the same grave shaft but there was significant fill separating the individuals, so that there was no mixing of skeletal elements. The individuals consist of a child (3-5 years old at death) and a male young adult (25-35 years old at death).

Burial 13

This burial consisted of a single individual with overall excellent preservation. However, the skull was damaged from the collapse of the coffin and contact with the acidic wood. This caused poor preservation and displacement of the cranial elements. Additionally, there was slight root disturbance near the skull, right arm, right leg, and feet. The vertebrae and ribs appeared complete in the field but fragmented due to their weakened condition during recovery. The rest of the skeleton was relatively complete.

Although the skull was the least complete of the body regions portions of all of the bones of the cranial vault were present. Additionally, the left zygomatic and both the left and right maxilla were present and are well preserved. The other cranial bones were not as well represented but parts of the sphenoid and ethmoid were present. The hyoid was also present (unfused) and complete.

The majority of teeth present were deciduous, with only two permanent incisors and four permanent molars observed. These permanent teeth were not yet occluded and were still in their crypts. Five deciduous incisors were present, with one missing postmortemly and two missing antemortemly (lack of sockets for the medial upper incisors). All of the deciduous canines and molars were present.

All of the vertebrae were present, although fragmented during removal. The cervical vertebrae were the most damaged and were scored as partial for condition even though they were complete in the field. All five segments of the sacrum were present as well as one segment of the coccyx. Twelve right ribs were observed but only nine left ribs were present. This may be due to disturbances but may also be due to fragmentation obscuring identification.

The appendicular portion of the skeleton was well preserved with all the elements present being complete. This included the scapula, clavicle, ilium, pubis, and ischium. The long

bone shafts were also complete but some of the elements were missing epiphyses (which were unfused). Neither of the patellas was present.

The extremities also had excellent preservation. Ten carpals were present but could not be differentiated because of insufficient development. All of the metacarpals, proximal hand phalanges, and middle hand phalanges were present but only four distal hand phalanges were present. All of the tarsals were present except for both naviculars and intermediate cuneiforms. Additionally, all of the metatarsals and proximal foot phalanges were present. No middle foot phalanges were observed, and only two distal phalanges were present.

Based on dental development, long bone lengths, and epiphyseal closure, the individual was a child, two to four years old at death. The first permanent molars had a little less than a quarter of the root present. The deciduous canines and incisors roots show resorption due to replacement by the permanent teeth. The lengths of the femurs, humeri, and tibiae suggest ages ranging from 2.5 to 5.5 years at death. All of the appendicular and extremity epiphyses were unfused. The vertebral neural arches were fused to each other. A thoracic vertebra and a few of the lumbar vertebrae had neural arches that were not fused to the centnums. The mandibular symphysis was completely fused but the metopic suture fusion was not visible.

There was slight shoveling of the lateral maxillary incisors. This is consistent with a Hispanic ancestry. The teeth themselves exhibited no pathologies but the maxilla showed antemortem loss of the upper medial incisors. There were no remnants of the crypts or periosteal reaction present. This suggests that a significant duration of time lapsed between the loss of the teeth and the death of the individual. The morphology also excludes the possibility of loss due to replacement by the permanent teeth. The area appeared normal otherwise. The possibilities for the absence of the crypts include traumatic loss, loss due to caries and abscessing, and congenital absence. Based on the morphology of the alveolar bone, congenital abscess is the least likely scenario. Besides the antemortem tooth loss, no other pathologies were observed on this skeleton. Therefore, no cause of death can be inferred.

Burial 14

This burial consisted of a single individual found below Burial 13. Like the above burial, this burial had excellent preservation except for some weathering of specific elements. The majority of this was due to the collapse of the coffin and contact with the acidic coffin wood. Additional bone degradation occurred through salt precipitating within the bone causing the cortical bone to expand and flake. Many of the bones had brown staining that may also be attributed to contact with the decomposition of the organic coffin, as well as clothing.

Very few elements were missing from this individual, as even the ossified thyroid (which is rarely preserved) was present. Two sesamoids were also present from the feet. The missing bones included the right pisiform and four left middle foot phalanges. However, there was considerable breakage of the skull and the right radius and ulna were poorly preserved due to salt precipitates.

The determination of age at death of this individual was complicated by partial preservation of the age markers on the pelvis. However, enough was present to estimate an age from 30 to 35 years old from the pubic symphysis and 35 to 39 years old from the auricular surface.

Many of the sutures were not observable to score for closure. The sutures that were present varied with some being open and some being completely closed. All of the internal cranial vault sutures were closed. The combination of locations of suture closure necessary to create an age range was not present, but the overall suture closure was consistent with the pelvic age. The sternal clavicle epiphysis, sacrum, vertebral annular epiphyses, and iliac crest were completely fused.

As will be discussed below, there was very little osteoarthritis of the joints. Additionally, there was some osteophytic lipping of the lumbar vertebrae but it was slight. The teeth were in excellent shape with only slight to moderate wear.

The combination of the age attributes suggests an individual from the young adult age category. More specifically, the individual likely died between the 25th and 35th year of their life. Additionally, the individual was probably from the last half of this age range, but the incompleteness of the skull and pelvis do not allow for this specificity.

Based on the sex markers present, this individual was a male. This is based in part on the greater sciatic notch of the pelvis, which was scored in the field and observed to be very narrow. Additionally, the individual had a "square" mandible and probable male scores for most of the markers on the skull. The sacrum was curved, which is another male characteristic. However, the supraorbital margins were very thin and pointed, which is a female characteristic. Overall, the individual was robust, with large deltoid tuberosities of the humeri and large long bone shaft circumferences. However, the femur head diameter was indeterminate to sex, and the humerus head diameter suggested the individual was probably a female.

In combination, the markers result in a male determination for sex. It is not uncommon to have conflicting markers for sex, but in this case some of these markers may be explained as part of a congenital systemic pathology that will be discussed below.

This individual had excellent dental health. There were no caries or abscesses. The canines, however, did have moderate enamel hypoplasia lines suggesting some nutritional stress during childhood. There was very slight pitting of the mandible and maxilla near the incisors, canines, and first premolars indicating a mild case of periodontal disease. Additionally, many of the teeth had a build up of calculus.

The incisors had slight to moderate shovel shaping. This suggests a mixed ancestry that is consistent with an individual of Hispanic ancestry. The teeth also exhibited the congenital absence of the third molars. There was no alveolar bone from which the teeth could have been lost and there were no wear facets on the second molars. The congenital absence of the third molars is not common in prehistoric Native American from the Southwest. It is more common in people with European backgrounds.

The stature of this individual (based on a Hispanic ancestry), when estimated from the femur, was between 5 feet 3 inches and 5 feet 5 inches.

This individual exhibited slight osteoarthritis in the hands, feet, knees, and elbows. This is based on slight lipping of the articular areas. Also present was slight lipping of the centroms of the lumbar vertebrae.

The pathologies include mostly congenital abnormalities but also include esostoses, an enthesopathy, and two likely cases of trauma. The trauma includes the left proximal ulna that has macroporosity and increased lipping of the coronoid process. The macroporosity is linear and likely formed as the result of a simple fracture without bone displacement. The other locus of trauma is in the right toes in which two middle foot phalanges are fused to the distal phalanges. These bones are slightly irregular with a gnarly appearance. Neither case of trauma includes active periosteal reactions.

The left clavicle has an enthesopathy on the inferior side of the shaft adjacent to the sternal end. There is a small but deep pit in the center. The right clavicle was not observable for this attribute.

Exostoses are present bilaterally on the mandible. They are located inferior and lateral of the condyles. Additionally, the proximal shafts of the fibula have exostoses.

The congenital abnormalities include the sternum that has a hole through the inferior portion that is directed anterior to posterior. There is no reactivity and this is not extremely rare and results in irregularity in the fusion of the sternal segments.

The right ulna is missing the styloid process that is the protrusion on the distal end. There is no bony response in the area that would suggest this was due to trauma, although it is possible that if a fracture occurred early in life the healing could be complete. However, with a lack of any bony response it is more likely that the formation of the process did not occur during the development of the bone end.

Another abnormality is that the left clavicle is almost a centimeter longer than the right clavicle. Again, no indications of trauma are present. More unusual is the fact that the individual had 13 thoracic vertebrae and 13 accompanying ribs. The 12th rib is larger than normal 12th ribs and the 13th rib is smaller than normal 12th ribs.

The final congenital abnormality is subtler and affects multiple elements. It has to do with the small size of some portions of the bones relative to the rest of the bones. The most apparent loci of this are the femur and humeri heads and the first sacrum's vertebral ring. They are abnormal in size in relation to the rest of the elements and in relation to the overall robust male.

None of the pathologies would have been life threatening and only some of them would have created slight discomfort during the life of the individual. No cause of death was observed.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Excavations in the City of Tucson's right-of-way at 904 N. Perry Avenue resulted in the discovery of two burials in coffins. The upper burial was a child aged from 2 to 5 years at death. This individual was wearing a long dress, and had additional pieces of clothing used as a pillow and placed at the foot of the coffin. The lower burial was a male aged between 25 and 35 years at death. This individual had a few observable skeletal pathologies, including an extra thoracic vertebrae, extra 13th ribs, and congenitally absent third molars. The man was buried in a shirt, jacket, suspenders, and pants. He had personal possessions in his pockets, including an 1886 coin. This narrows the date of interment to between 1886 and 1909. Both individuals have traits that suggest they were Hispanic, likely Mexican-American. In addition, they were interred in the Catholic portion of the cemetery. It is planned to repatriate the remains to the Holy Hope Cemetery for reburial.

The burials from 904 N. Perry Avenue are the 13th and 14th from the Court Street Cemetery located since 1949. It is likely that many burials from the cemetery were left in place after the cemetery was abandoned. Some were left behind in unmarked graves. Other individuals had no living relatives in the Tucson area. It is also likely that some burials had their stone markers moved, but the human remains were never exhumed.

Future ground disturbance should be avoided, when possible, within the boundaries of the cemetery. If small-scale ground disturbance takes place, it is recommended that an archaeological monitor be present. Large-scale, ground-disturbing activities should be preceded by an archaeological testing program designed to locate in situ burials.

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APPENDIX A

APPENDIX B

Lists of Field Numbers Assigned for Burials 13 and 14 at AZ BB:13:156 (ASM).

Table A.1. Field numbers for Feature 13.

Field No.	Description	Location
145	human bone	
145	button 1	below left pelvis
147	button 2	left femur head area
148	button 3	below coccyx
149	button 4	upper left femur
150	button 5	lower left femur
151	button 6	lower leg area
152	button 7	interior middle of right tibia
153	button 8	foot of coffin
154	button 9	left foot
155	button 10	foot of coffin
155	button 11	from screen
156	button 12	foot of coffin
157	button 13	left foot
157	button 14	left foot
158	button 15	right foot
159	button 16	right foot
160	button 17	right foot
161	button 18	foot of coffin
162	button 19	near knees
163	button 20	left side of coffin, tibia area
163	button 21	left side of coffin, tibia area
164	button 22	foot of coffin
164	button 23	foot of coffin
165	button 24	foot of coffin
166	button 25	foot of coffin
167	button 26	foot of coffin
168	button 27	foot of coffin
169	button 28	foot of coffin
169	button 29	foot of coffin
170	button 30	waist to knees
170	button 31	waist to knees
171	button 32	foot of coffin
172	button 33	lower right chest
173	button 34	mid-chest
174	button 35	upper chest
174	button 36	upper chest
175	button 37	from screen
176	button 38	left side of face
176	button 39	left side of face
177	button 40	between left humerus and ribcage
178	button 41	right shoulder
179	button 42	left side of head

Table A.1. Continued

Field No.	Description	Location
179	button 43	left side of head
180	button 44	beneath head
180	button 45	above head
180	button 46	above head
181	button 47	above waist
182	button 48	from screen
183	button 49	south end
184	button 50	from screen
185	button 51	foot of coffin
186	button 52	foot of coffin
187	button 53	foot of coffin
187	button 54	foot of coffin
188	button 55	foot of coffin
189	button 56	foot of coffin
190	button 57	foot of coffin
191	button 58	foot of coffin
192	pin	from screen
193	coffin nails	
194	coffin brackets	interior corners
195	coffin handles	exterior sides of coffin
196	coffin brass appliqués	exterior and lid of coffin
197	coffin lid handle	coffin lid
198	coffin lid handle	coffin lid
199	(not used)	
200	coffin wood	
201	coffin brass crucifix and diamond appliqués	from head of coffin
202	possible textile	from screen
203	button 59	from screen

Table A.2. Field numbers for Feature 14.

Field No.	Description	Location
100	human bone	
101	button 1	on right waist area
102	button 2	upper chest
103	button 3	upper chest
104	button 4	lower chest
105	button 5	center waist area
106	button 6	from screen
107	button 7	chest area screen
107	button 8	chest area screen
107	button 9	chest area screen

Table A.2. Continued.

Field No.	Description	Location
108	button 10	right collar area
109	button 11	top half of body from screen
109	button 12	top half of body from screen
110	button 13	below pelvis
111	button 14	pelvis to knees area
112	button 15	left elbow area
113	button 16	waist to knees
114	button 17	from screen
115	button 18	from screen
116	copper pin	from screen
117	rubber comb in paper wrapper	right pocket
118	suspender clip	beneath spine
119	coin purse	left pocket
120	silver dime	right pocket
121	silver quarter and nickel	right pocket
122	coffin bracket	northeast corner
123	coffin bracket	northwest corner
124	coffin bracket	southeast corner at top
125	coffin bracket	southeast corner at base
126	coffin bracket	southeast corner at top
127	coffin bracket	southwest corner at top
128	coffin bracket	corner bracket
129	brass appliqué cross	foot end of coffin
130	brass appliqué diamonds	exterior of coffin
131	lid handle	leg area
132	lid handle	south half of coffin
133	coffin handle	middle side, east
134	coffin handle	south side, east
135	coffin handle	middle side, west
136	coffin handle	north side, west
137	coffin handle	south side, west
138	coffin handle	fragment
139	coffin handle	fragment beneath coffin
140	coffin nails	
141	coffin wood	
142	suspender buckle	from screen
143	coffin bracket	from screen
144	buttons 19-26	from screen